

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION

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May 20, 2003

FROM: **WALLY HILL**, County Administrative Officer

PETER HILLS, Fire Chief/Fire Warden,
San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District

SUBJECT: **CONTINUATION OF PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR
EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE**

RECOMMENDATION: Continue the emergency proclamation originally proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors on January 7, 2003, resulting from the discovery of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) in poultry located within San Bernardino County described in the Emergency Proclamation, which still exists and continues to be a local emergency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On January 7, 2003, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming a local emergency resulting from the discovery of END in poultry within San Bernardino County. The Board is required to review and continue the proclamation on either 14-day or 21-day intervals in accordance with California Government Code section 8630, if there is a continued existence of the local emergency.

During a period when the Board meets weekly, the proclamation must be reviewed every 14 days in accordance with Government Code section 8630(c)(2). If the Board does not meet weekly (e.g. due to a holiday), the proclamation must be reviewed every 21 days in accordance with Government Code section 8630(c)(1). The Board last took action to continue the emergency on May 6, 2003, and approval of this recommendation would continue the emergency for an additional period in accordance with Government Code section 8630.

The Governor declared a State of Emergency on January 7, 2003, in the fight against an outbreak of END among poultry in Southern California. Quarantines are currently in place within San Bernardino, San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, Ventura, and Orange Counties. The emergency declaration enables state agencies to pool resources and work cooperatively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in implementing an eradication campaign.

On February 13, 2003, the Chief Information Officer for END reported that the USDA Secretary of Agriculture declared an Extraordinary Emergency for the discovery of the Exotic Newcastle Disease. With that action, the Office of Management and Budget has made an initial apportionment of \$40 million to support the joint task force activities for the affected states of California, Nevada, and Arizona.

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The END surveillance and depopulation teams continue to focus efforts throughout the County in various communities. Team staff is continuing to make contact with bird owners to assess for possible flock infections. As of May 6, 2003, the teams have identified a total of nine hundred forty-one (941) affected END case sites within the County of San Bernardino, they have thus far eradicated 1,320,248 diseased birds, and a total of 4,373 tons of Newcastle material has been disposed of in landfills. The teams are continuing to gather data via questionnaires to determine if further action by the END Task Force is indicated. The END Incident Command staff are currently considering downsizing the operation and resources committed to managing the incident. This includes closing or relocating the Colton Incident Command Post.

Staff recommends that the Proclamation of the Local Emergency be terminated by the Board after impacts to landfills become negligible, and after the Incident Command Post for END in Colton is closed or relocated.

Staff will provide an updated review and the proclamation will be recommended for renewal periodically in accordance with the Government Code until such time that the eradication campaign for END is completed, and the existence of the local emergency has ended.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Deputy Dennis Tilton) on May 6, 2003; the County Administrative Office, (Wayne Thies, Administrative Analyst) on May 12, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: No known financial impact.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTERS: Thomas J. Prendergast, (909) 387-6219
Denise Benson (909) 356-3998